



Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Families,

## Catholic Life of the School

This week we spoke about ways in which we can put our faith into action with Catholic Social Teaching. We recognised there are lots of things we can do for different groups who may feel left out or isolated such as the homeless, people in prison and people who are unwell.

The Mini Vinnies had a planning session and are beginning to run 'Post Pals' sessions in which children write letters and draw pictures to share with children who are unwell to brighten their day. We look forward to seeing the lovely artwork and letters they make to brighten the lives of others.



## Nursery Applications – September 2024

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Applications open (application via online form available on our website <https://www.stmore.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Nursery+Admissions&pid=122&action=saved> )

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Applications close for on time applications

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Nursery places offered Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April – Deadline for accepting Nursery places

Nursery Tour Dates: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February @ 9am

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February @ 9am

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February @ 9am

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March @ 9am

Please contact the school office via [admin@stmore.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmore.herts.sch.uk) if you wish to attend. If you are unable to make the available dates, please contact us and we will do our best to accommodate you.

## Year 3 Trip – Target Games

The week, Year 3 enjoyed a range of target games including archery and darts at Ashlyns school. Thank you to the parent volunteers, Miss Carey and Mrs Jackson for accompanying the children.

## Clubs and Activities

See below for our current offer of clubs and sports. If you would like to find out more about joining any of the below, please contact the school office.

Clubs and Activities – Spring Term					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before school		Choir			
During the school day	Girls' Football Years 5 & 6	Chess club	Chess club	LAMDA	
After school	Netball KS2 Forest Club	Code Club Years 5 & 6	Yoga Peaches  Tennis Years 2 & 3  Year 5 & 6 football (beginning end of Feb)	Ross & Andy's football KS1	Ross & Andy's football KS2
If you would like to find out more about any of these clubs, please contact the school office via <a href="mailto:admin@stmore.herts.sch.uk">admin@stmore.herts.sch.uk</a>					



### **Thank you**

It was great to see so many parents in school on Wednesday evening for the STMSA AGM. A huge thank you to the outgoing Chairs for all their hard work over the past two years and a congratulations to all the new members of the committee, we thank you for your time and dedication to our school and look forward to what is to come.

### **Mr Dewey – Piano and choir**

Unfortunately Mr Dewey will be leaving us at February half-term as he takes up a new role with a music service in another county. We thank him for the time and effort he has put in to the piano lessons and choir he has run over the past few years. We have been liaising with Herts Music service to find a replacement for Mr Dewey and we are confident this will be a success.

### **OPAL Update**

This week we had another Free Play Friday as part of our OPAL journey. We are in need of hard-standing for the installation of storage. If you would be able to help in any way or know someone/a company who might, please let us know as any help or advice is greatly appreciated.

### **NSPCC Number Day**

On Friday 2nd February we are taking part in the NSPCC Number Day to raise awareness around Maths - the importance of it and how we use it all the time in everyday life. To raise money for this wonderful charity we are asking you to make a donation via <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/ways-to-give/donate/> and for your child to come dressed in their **own clothes with a digit on their clothes somewhere**. The teachers will be planning lots of Maths related activities for the whole day to really immerse the children in a fantastic experience. We look forward to sharing the activities we complete with you on this day and thank you for all your support. More information about Number Day can be found here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/charity-fundraising/schools-fundraising-ideas/number-day/>

### **RE Visitor**

We were pleased to welcome our advisor from the Diocese this week to see some of the learning, praying and things going on in our school linked to our Catholic Life and Mission. It was lovely to hear some of the children speaking so passionately about their learning in RE and to hear what they enjoy.

### **Attendance**

Whole school attendance is **97.50%** this week. Thank you for your support.

Reception	88%	Year 4	95%
Year 1	99%	Year 5	97%
Year 2	98%	Year 6	97%
Year 3	99%		

Congratulations to Year 1 and 3 who achieved the highest attendance this week!

### **Community News:**

#### **Prayer at Home**

Hopefully you and your families are enjoying the Prayer at Home resources. They are all available on our school website [here](#).



## **STMSA News**

Thank you to everyone who attended Wednesday's AGM! We presented the financial overview for 2022-23, covered the highlights from the past 2 years and voted in new committee members as well as 2 new chairs, as after 2 years it's time for our wonderful Co-Chairs Aisling Hilsdon and Marina Burke to hand over to a new Co-Chairs who will bring fresh energy and ideas to the STMSA.

### AGM Summary

#### *Financial Overview:*

We shared the STMSA accounts for the 2022-23 financial year (FY22-23), which ran from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023.

Financial position at year-end:		Financial performance 1 September 2022 -31 August 2023:	
Actual bank balance at 31.08.2023	£16,152	Bank balance at 01.09.2022	£19,203
Accruals and reversals relating to supermarket vouchers	£193	Income from fundraising	£15,274
Accruals and reversals relating to 100 Club	£30	Funding to STM	(£16,049)
Accruals and reversals relating to saleable bar stocks	£202	Administration expenditure	(£1,851)
Reconciled bank balance at 31.08.2023	£16,577	Reconciled bank balance at 31.08.2023	£16,577

Details of how we raised funds and what we used funds on can be found on the attached flyers.

### *New Committee*

We're delighted that Cath Hammond and Terri-Ann Nichol have stepped forward to Co-Chair the STMSA. Vice Chair Sarah Hennis, Secretary Clare Trowbridge, Treasurer Liz Jaggs will remain in the current roles and we're also really pleased to welcome Cat McGovern, Richard Smith, Rachel Cole, Sandra Hallinan and Tracie Lacey who have agreed to join the committee this year. Thanks to all of you for stepping forward.

### *Thank you*

A very special thank you to Aisling and Marina for throwing themselves into the role over the last 2 years, which is essentially running a charity on top of jobs, children and general life! Both of have been absolutely incredible in three key areas:

1. Fundraising. Scheduling, planning, organising, events – reviving past events and adding new ones to the mix
2. Acting as the best of advocates for our school and children by speaking at new parent tours
3. Ensuring the funds raised are spent on the things that really matter to our children, like the on-going provision of forest school, and coach trips to the panto at Christmas time instrumental in re-building a post-covid school community.

We have all been so lucky to have you and thank you for remaining on the committee going forward.

An additional thanks goes to their incredible team, consisting of our Vice Chair Sarah Hennis, Secretary Clare Trowbridge, Treasurer Liz Jaggs and Comms Officer Cath Hammond. Everything over the last 2 years has been a whole team effort.

### *Looking ahead*

Volunteer numbers have started to decrease and we really need people to step forward and help so that we can continue to provide children with the wonderful opportunities we have given them. Getting involved truly is worthwhile and every one of us can make a difference. If everyone could give just half an hour to a school event throughout the year, the number of volunteer hours would far exceed our current efforts!

We have a school full of parents with skills, connections and businesses which can contribute to the school over and above helping out with fundraising, from building sheds to planting bulbs, and from donating drinks to supplying raffle prizes. We would like to make better use of this and would like to create a skills spreadsheet this year to see how we can best help school outside of fundraising ideas. More information on this will follow. We look forward to another great year!



## **STMSA News cont.**

### **Berkhamsted Rotary Santa Sleigh**

Thank you to all the Dads who helped with the collection at the end of last year. This week Dan Trowbridge and Alan Walsh were presented with the cheque of £546 for our share of the funds raised!



### **Bags2School**

Thank you to everyone who donated bags this week - we collected 230kgs and £92 was raised for the school!

## **Calendar dates:**

### **Spring Term:**

#### **January**

31/01/24 Rocktopus – music and values workshops

#### **February**

2/2/24 Number Day – *own clothes with a digit on somewhere!*

5/2/24 Nursery 2024 tour @ 9am

7/2/24-9/2/24 Year 5 Trip to St Cassian's Centre

14/2/24 *Ash Wednesday – Mass in school @ 2.15pm – families welcome*

16/2/24 Nursery 2024 tour @ 9am

19/2/24-23/2/24 Half Term

27/2/24 Nursery 2024 tour @ 9am

27/2/24-1/3/24 Book Fayre after school

#### **March**

7/3/24 World Book Day – pyjama theme

11/3/24 Science Week

13/3/24 Nursery 2024 tour @ 9am

20/3/24 Parent Consultation Evening

26/3/24 *Start of Holy Week*

26/3/24 *Year 3 & 4 Easter Production Dress Rehearsal @ 9.30am – families welcome, limited capacity*

27/3/24 *Year 3 & 4 Easter Production @ 6pm – families welcome*

28/3/24 End of Term @ 1.30pm

#### **April**

15/4/24 INSET Day – school closed to pupils

16/4/24 Start of term for pupils

Have a lovely weekend,  
Miss Lally  
Assistant Headteacher



*Learning to love, live and celebrate as we grow in the knowledge and love of Christ.*

